

Butte-Silver Bow Study Commission Minutes

Meeting Date: March 3, 2005

Time: 5:40 p.m.

Place: Butte-Silver Bow County Courthouse, 1st Floor Conference Room

Call to Order: Chairman Bob Worley brought the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. He proceeded to call roll with the following results:

Members Present: Tony Bonney, Ristene Hall, Wayne Harper, Meg Sharp, Cindi Shaw, Northey Tretheway, Bob Worley, and Shag Miller. Ron Rowling and Shelly Jones were also present.

Excused Absence: Dave Palmer

Others Present: None

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Worley requested approval of the February 24, 2005, minutes. A motion was made by Shag Miller to approve the minutes of the meeting. Bob Worley asked that on the last paragraph of the minutes that Cindi Tretheway should be changed to Cindi Shaw. Northey Tretheway seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments: None

Items Not Addressed on the Agenda: Cindi Shaw suggested that a line item be put on the agenda for Ron Rowling to make comments. Ron Rowling updated the Study Commission (SC) on the census bureau information he is getting from Mary McMahon, and gave an update regarding his research for information from past Council meeting minutes regarding a special committee that was supposed to be set up by Judy Jacobson to study the process of collecting warrants. He has found no information yet. Also, Ron asked Chairman Worley about the possible meeting with Jon Sesso and Gordon Hart. Chairman Worley responded that he is waiting to hear back from Jon Sesso. Chairman Worley told Jon Sesso that the Study Commission could set up a special meeting to accommodate Jon and Gordon's schedules. Ron Rowling also brought to the Commission's attention that Gordon Hart's time might be billable time if he were to come and talk before the Commission. Chairman Worley mentioned that he talked to Bobbi Stauffer from the Montana Standard about submitting articles in the paper for the Commission. Cindi Shaw reported that Rob Macioroski asked if he could be put on the list to speak before the Commission. Also, Cindi talked to Dave Hinch (animal control) and told him that one of the most prevalent complaints to the Study Commission is animal control; she asked Mr. Hinch to come and talk to the Commission, and so did Bob Worley.

Per Neil Midtlyng's request, Chairman Worley reported that he and Northey Tretheway spoke before the Exchange Club on March 1, 2005. They spoke for about 45 minutes. There were a lot of questions and they thought it went well. Topics of discussion at the Exchange Club meeting included the background of the Study Commission and its rules, the SC calendar, the upcoming SC public hearing, and it was mentioned that the SC agendas and minutes are posted on the website. Northey put together a PowerPoint presentation and talked about the survey; the Exchange Club asked questions for about one-half hour. One of the questions brought to their attention was the definition/meaning of some of the questions. Northey said that it would be a good idea to put information in the local paper/media

explaining the background and the forms of government and also explaining the questions that will be on the survey. Tony Bonney suggested that this is where they could have Bobbi Stauffer write an article in the paper. The Study Commission would provide and give details that would inform the people of the survey. Questions that came from the Exchange Club were: 1) has there been any thought of contracting out the Public Works Department (repaving, etc.)? 2) How was the Charter going to be affected with the firings of Jimmy Johnston and Mike Shea? (Chairman Worley responded that it would depend on what came out of the court system.) 3) Why is it more costly or what would be the difference/advantage of an elected chief executive versus a city manager. Bob Worley said that anyone can run to be a chief executive; a city manager would/should be more educated in actually running a government. It is a steep learning curve to come in as a new chief executive. Discussion followed about the differences.

Tony Bonney reported on the presentations he will be making to people in the rural areas. Per Shag Miller's request, a presentation will be given to the Rotary Club on April 14, 2005, at the Red Lion Inn. Shag Miller and Meg Sharp will do this presentation. Cindi Shaw mentioned the Pacaderm club. Other groups mentioned were the Burros Club, and Kiwanis. The importance of attending other community meetings was discussed. Tony suggested that Bobbi Stauffer also do an article that the Study Commission is interested in speaking to different groups. Ron Rowling would be the liaison between the groups, Bobbi, and the Commission.

Shag Miller made a motion asking that Mr. Rowling prepare a list of potential clubs, organizations and groups that the Study Commission could speak to regarding the project of the Study Commission, and then the Commission members would share that information with the Study Commission so the information can be assimilated. Chairman Worley stated that a motion had been made. Suggestions were made. It was added to the motion that Ron Rowling compile a notice to the paper and establish contacts. The Commission agreed to add that to the motion. Northey Tretheway seconded the motion and the motion carried. Chairman Worley asked if a couple of people would work together to create an outline/information for future presentations. Northey will share his presentation.

Moving on, Chairman Worley said that every fourth week the Commission reviews the prior three weeks and the presentations given. He asked if the group would like to review any of the information presented. He mentioned that the Commission is going to have to start putting together a preliminary report on items and things they want to change in the Charter, etc. Tony Bonney and Bob Worley attended the Superfund meeting, which is a very complicated issue. Ristene Hall said that she thinks it is very important to study other governments. She brought up the amount of budget transfer items that are on the Council of Commissioners agendas. Discussion followed regarding the budget process, lack of control, and the fact that millions of dollars are spent by all the boards and the money spent does not come before the Council of Commissioners, budgets are a guide, budget trends, URA distributing money from the Sears building without input from the Council, cities that are close to Butte that the Commission could visit, preparing a standard set of questions to ask other governments and our own government for comparison to other communities, how to measure efficiency, contacting other study commissions, fax and copy machine maintenance contracts, centralized purchasing would eliminate the problem of a different maintenance contract for every office, and an information technology (IT) plan to streamline governments, etc.

A common theme from all the speakers that have come before the Commission is that there is a shortage on people, they are not paid enough, and they don't have enough equipment. Automation of departments and training people is important. An IT plan should be prepared and compared to other

governments. It was suggested that Ron Rowling contact Linda Sajor-Joyce and ask her to do a contingency plan on IT.

Past study commission members, Jim Fabatz, Rick Griffith, and Ron Cass were brought up as future speakers. Shag Miller talked about a past feasibility study that was done regarding a tri-county airport authority and a massive, bold plan to move businesses off the hill. Discussion on the feasibility study continued.

Cindi Shaw asked if she could visit with previous speakers to ask them some questions that she had since she was not able to be present during their presentations. Chairman Worley said that they were all wide open to that.

Northey Tretheway brought to the Commission's attention that the judicial courts are beyond the scope of local government review (Study Commission) and are not subject to Study Commission considerations according the Study Commission guide.

Ron Rowling mentioned that he would not be able to attend the meeting on March 24th. Chairman Worley will work on getting Jeff Miller and Dave Hinch to speak in April.

Date for Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Thursday, March 10, 2005.

Adjourn: Wayne Harper moved to adjourn the meeting; Northey Tretheway seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.